

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: FUKUDA FACTION PUBLISHES PROPOSALS TO REVAMP LDP

SUMMARY: LDP'S RUKUDA FACTION AUGUST 12 MADE PUBLIC 13- POINT PROPOSAL FOR REVITALIZING LDP AND CONVERTING IT INTO NEW QTE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY UNQTE WHICH WOULD APPEAL TO AND BE SUPPORTED BY URBAN MASSES. ALTHOUGH PRESENTED AS DRAFT PROPOSAL TO BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY LDP AND GOVT, PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENT WHICH SEVERELY CRITICAL OF CURRENT GOJ POLICIES SEEN BY MANY OBSERVERS AS DELIBERATE FUKUDA ATTACK ON TANAKA LEADERSHIP. STRONG EMPHASIS ON LIBERAL SOCIAL WELFARE REFORMS AND ON IMPROVEMENT QUALITY OF LIFE AS OPPOSED TO HIGH ECONOMIC GROWTH REPRESENTS EFFORT TO MOVE LDP TOWARD MORE PROGRESSIVE AND POPULAR STANCE AND AT SAME TIME TO ENHANCE FUKUDA'S POLITICAL APPEAL BY REPRESENTING HIM AS CHAMPION OF PROGRESSIVE REFORM. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ACTION WIDELY DESCRIBED IN PRESS AS IMPLICIT ATTACK ON TANAKA GOVT, LDP FACTION HEADED BY TANAKA'S CHIEF RIVAL TAKEO FUKUDA, MADE PUBLIC AUGUST 12 THIRTEEN-POINT PROPOSAL CALLING FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN LDP PHILOSOPHY, ORGANIZA-
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TION AND POLICIES. TWENTY-FIVE PAGE DOCUMENT ENTITLED QTE

PROPOSALS ON BASIC PRINCIPLES, ORGANIZATION, AND POLICIES OF THE PARTY (A DRAFT) UNQTE WAS REPORTEDLY DRAFTED BY LEADING FUKUDA FACTION MEMBER AND FORMER LABOR MINISTER TAKASHI HAYAKAWA ON BASIS OF SERIES OF MEETINGS BY FUKUDA FACTION STUDY GROUP SINCE JANUARY AND IS TO BE FORMALLY SUBMITTED SHORTLY TO LDP LEADERSHIP AND GOVT. (TRANSLATION OF FULL TEXT TO BE POUCHED.)

2. AMONG SPECIFIC ITEMS POINTED TO BE PRESS COMMENTARY AS DIRECTLY CHALLENGING CURRENT TANAKA POLICIES IS RECOMMENDATION TO LAUNCH THREE-YEAR PROGRAM TO QTE CLEAN UP THE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO UNQTE BY REMOVING OR DRASTICALLY CURBING ALL MAJOR SOURCES OF POLLUTION AND BY BEAUTIFYING THE CITIES THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE URBAN PLANNING. THIS PROPOSAL IS SEEN AS CRITIQUE AND REJECTION OF TANAKA'S HIGHLY PUBLICIZED PLAN TO QTE BUILD A NEW JAPAN UNQTE BY DISPERSING INDUSTRIAL AND URBAN CONCENTRATION. ALSO CITED AS ANTI-TANAKA ARE CRITICISMS OF CURRENT GOJ ECONOMIC POLICIES WHICH ARE BLAMED FOR CONTRIBUTING TO SPREAD OF POLLUTION, MOUNTING INFLATION AND RUNAWAY LAND PRICES.

3. WHILE FUKUDA FACTION DOCUMENT IS UNDOUBTEDLY MEANT TO BE WEAPON IN INTRAPARTY STRUGGLE FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP AND IS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO ADVANCE FUKUDA'S POLITICAL FORTUNES, IT ALSO REFLECTS SENSE OF CRISIS WITHIN CONSERVATIVE PARTY RANKS AND NEED FELT TO REVITALIZE LDP IN FACE OF RECENT LEFTIST ELECTORAL ADVANCES AND LDP SLIPPAGE AT POLLS, PARTICULARLY IN URBAN AREAS. ACCORDINGLY PROPOSALS CALL FOR MAJOR REVAMPING AND MODERNIZATION OF PARTY PRINCIPLES, ORGANIZATION, IMAGE, AND POLICIES IN ORDER TO REMAKE LDP INTO NEW QTE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY UNQTE. ONE NOTABLE FEATURE OF PROPOSALS IS EMPHASIS ON NEED TO CONVERT LDP INTO A QTE PARTY OF THE PEOPLE UNQTE WITH BROAD MASS SUPPORT AMONG WHITE AND BLUE COLLAR WORKERS, YOUTH AND WOMEN INSTEAD OF JUST DEPENDING ON TRADITIONAL SUPPORT OF BIG BUSINESS AND FARMERS. THUS KEY RECOMMENDATIONS CALL FOR ADDING QTE SOCIAL JUSTICE UNQTE AND QTE SOCIAL SOLIDARITY UNQTE TO PARTY PRINCIPLES, WHICH HAVE HITHERTO STRESSED ONLY QTE FREEDOM UNQTE AND QTE DEMOCRACY UNQTE; BROADLY EXPANDING AND LIBERALIZING GOVT SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS; BUILDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UP AND STRENGTHENING LDP ORGANIZATION IN URBAN AREAS; GIVING PRIORITY TO CHECKING INFLATION EVEN AT SACRIFICE OF HIGH RATE ECONOMIC GROWTH; AND CONTROLLING RISE OF LAND PRICES THROUGH DRACONIAN MEASURES INCLUDING RESTRICTING OF OWNERSHIP RIGHTS, FREEZING OF LAND PRICES, AND USE OF SPECIAL TAX LEVIES. PROPOSALS ALSO INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE APPEAL OF SOCIALISM FOR SALARIED MEN AND WORKERS AND WIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATISM BY INCREASING THEIR STAKE IN

CAPITALISM THROUGH INCREASED OWNERSHIP OF STOCKS, BONDS AND OTHER CAPITAL ASSETS.

4. DRAFT DOCUMENT ALSO ADDRESSED OTHER MORE ORTHODOX CONSERVATIVE THEMES SUCH AS NEED FOR NEW EMPHASIS BY GOVT ON MORAL AND SPIRITUAL RATHER THAN MATERIAL VALUES; REMOVAL OF ARTIFICIAL RESTRICTIONS ON RICE PRODUCTION; PROTECTION OF BASIC AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY AND FISHERY INTERESTS; AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

5. DRAFTERS OF PROPOSALS APPARENTLY HOPED TO CREATE MAJOR POLITICAL SPLASH WITH DOCUMENT AND HAD TIMED PUBLIC RELEASE FOR SUNDAY TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM PRESS COVERAGE. HOWEVER, MOST OF PRESS GAVE IT ONLY PERFUNCTORY TREATMENT WITH DETAILED PRESENTATIONS FOUND ONLY IN SANKEI AND NIHON KEIZAI.

6. COMMENT: FUKUDA FACTION DOCUMENT REPRESENTS SECOND ATTEMPT BY FUKUDA FORCES IN RECENT PERIOD (SEE TOKYO 7890) TO PUBLICIZE THEIR DISAGREEMENT WITH TANAKA POLICIES. EVEN THOUGH FUKUDA IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS MEMBER OF TANAKA CABINET, HE AND HIS SUPPORTERS OBVIOUSLY FEEL IT NECESSARY THAT EXISTENCE OF DISTINCTIVE FUKUDA POSITION ON PUBLIC ISSUES SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN AND THAT PUBLIC SHOULD SEE FUKUDA, PLAYING ROLE OF LOYAL OPPOSITION, AS ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO TANAKA. DOCUMENT IS OF FURTHER INTEREST AS CLUE TO TRENDS OF THOUGHT WITHIN LDP AS CONSERVATIVES SEARCH FOR NEW IMAGE AND MEANS TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL REVIVAL OF THEIR PARTY.

ALTHOUGH FUKUDA FACTION GENERALLY REGARDED AS STRONGHOLD OF ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN LDP, DRAFT PROPOSALS APPEAR TO REPRESENT EFFORT NOT ONLY TO MOVE LDP TOWARD MORE PROGRESSIVE AND POPULAR POSTURE BUT ALSO TO SOFTEN FUKUDA'S CONSERVATIVE IMAGE AND ENHANCE HIS POLITICAL APPEAL BY IDENTIFY-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ING HIM WITH PROGRESSIVE REFORMS AND VIGOROUS ADVOCACY OF LIBERAL SOCIAL, WELFARE POLICIES.
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